
NEWS RELEASE

Judd Gregg

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GREGG, SUNUNU ANNOUNCE RELEASE OF \$200 MILLION EMERGENCY LIHEAP FUNDS

New Hampshire will receive \$2.95 million for low-income fuel assistance

WASHINGTON— U.S. Senators Judd Gregg and John Sununu today announced that President George W. Bush has directed U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson to release \$200 million in emergency contingency reserve funds for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program to states. New Hampshire will receive \$2,951,570 in emergency funds from this action.

Earlier this week, both Senators supported an amendment, which was accepted 88-4, to the fiscal year 2003 omnibus appropriations bill that would direct the President to release the entire \$300 million in emergency reserve funds that are under his control. That bill is still pending final action by Congress. Yesterday, Senator Gregg cosigned a letter with Senators Ted Kennedy (D-MA), Susan Collins (R-ME) and Jack Reed (D-RI) to the President asking him to preempt Congressional action and release the emergency funds before the bill is passed.

Senator Gregg stated, "It is critical that the President took this important action at this time when so many families are suffering through the severe cold snap affecting much of the U.S. No one knows better than the people of New Hampshire how hard cold winters can be on families living on a budget, and I strongly support this release of funds to help ease that burden."

Senator Sununu stated, "The release of this funding will be a tremendous help to New Hampshire residents, who are dealing with tough winter temperatures and may be having difficult time making ends meet," said Sununu, a long-time supporter of LIHEAP. "I am pleased to continue my support of a program that is helpful to so many in New Hampshire and across the country."

LIHEAP contingency funds are an important source of protection for low income households. These flexible funds allow the Administration to target resources during an energy emergency to those households who are most in need of assistance.

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